

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19569 231101Z
ACTION HEW-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, TBIO, OSCI, EG
SUBJ: ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF
- HEALTH

REF: STATE 206565

1. THIS SUBJECT WAS RAISED WITH USAID BY GOE MINISTER OF HEALTH BADRAN IN OCTOBER 1977. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR U. S. ASSISTANCE TO FUND A CENTRAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE THREE U.S.-EGYPTIAN JOINT WORKING GROUPS. USAID DIRECTOR COMMENTED AT THAT TIME ON POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TEMPORARY "BRIDGE" FINANCING SUPPORT, BUT NOT CONTINUED FUNDING, WHEREUPON MINISTER BADRAN WITHDREW HIS REQUEST. WE THOUGHT, UNTIL RECEIPT OF REFTEL, THAT QUESTION THEREFORE WAS MOOT. DETAILS OF ANY FURTHER TALKS BETWEEN MINHEALTH AND HEW/OIH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO US.

2. EMBASSY/USAID CONTINUE OF OPINION THAT FUNDING OF JWG SECRETARIAT BASICALLY IS RESPONSIBILITY OF GOE AND THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE ONLY OVER LIMITED, DEFINED PERIOD OF TIME IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNCTIONING STAFF. WE WOULD NOT WISH USG TO BE PUT IN POSITION OF INDEFINITELY AND DIRECTLY

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FUNDING THIS (OR OTHER) FUNCTION FOR WHICH GOE IS RESPONSIBLE. DR. GOMAA, WHO ACCOMPANIED MINISTER BADRAN IN OCTOBER 1977 DISCUSSIONS, SET FORTH AS SOLE REASON FOR MINISTRY'S REQUEST LIMITATIONS ON SALARIES EGYPTIAN CIVIL SERVICE CAN PAY FOR BILINGUAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL EMPLOYEES REQUIRED. DR. GOMAA DID NOT INDICATE TO US THAT ASSISTANCE REQUIRED WOULD FIT INTO TEMPORARY "BRIDGE" FRAMEWORK.

3. FURTHER, HEW/OIH SHOULD BE COGNIZANT OF CONSTRAINTS ON SFCP FUNDING FACED BY USG OVER NEXT YEAR OR TWO. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, TIME WHEN EGYPT WILL NO LONGER BE EXCESS CURRENCY COUNTRY IS DRAWING NIGH. HEW'S WISH TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO GOE MINHEALTH SHOULD BE BALANCED AGAINST OTHER PRIORITY USES FOR PL 480-GENERATED USG FUNDS.

4. IF DETERMINATION IS MADE ON INTERAGENCY LEVEL IN WASHINGTON THAT SUCH MINHEALTH SUPPORT IS OF SUFFICIENTLY HIGH PRIORITY TO WARRANT APPROACH TO GOE, DISCUSSIONS UNDERTAKEN BY HEW WITH DR. GOMAA SHOULD MAKE VERY CLEAR OUR CONCERNS ABOUT LIMITED, CLOSED-END NATURE OF FUNDING. EMBASSY/USAID WILL WISH TO BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF ANY ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY HEW IN THIS REGARD. PLEASE ADVISE. EILTS

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